



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

September 28, 2022

ALTSA: AFH #2022-044
ALTSA: ALF #2022-037
ALTSA: CCRSS #2022-025
ALTSA: ESF #2022-033
ALTSA: ICF/IID #2022-021
ALTSA: NH #2022-054

**EMERGENCY HEALTH PRACTITIONER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ENDS WHEN
THE STATE OF EMERGENCY ENDS ON OCTOBER 31, 2022**

Dear Administrator /Provider/Superintendent:

[Governor Inslee has announced](#) the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic will end on October 31, 2022. The end of the state of emergency will also mean the end of the Emergency Health Practitioner Volunteer program under chapter 70.15 RCW. This statute authorizes the use of volunteer health practitioners who are licensed in this state or in other states in response to a Governor-proclaimed emergency and provides liability protections for those registered and activated as emergency volunteer healthcare providers.

Providers may continue working with volunteers after October 31, 2022, so long as:

- Volunteers are properly licensed to practice in Washington state;
- The provider obtains liability coverage previously provided under RCW 70.15; and
- The provider understands that the Department of Health, WAserv, and the Volunteer Management program no longer have any responsibility for volunteers after October 31st.

If a nurse or nursing assistant wishes to pursue a Washington state credential, they must apply as soon as possible to be sure there is adequate time to process the application and complete the background checks.

Nurses: Registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and nursing technicians may apply through the [Online Application Portal](#). Once all application requirements are met, including verification from the licensing state and a background check with no disqualifying findings, a temporary practice permit is typically issued within 7 – 9 calendar days.

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Nursing Assistant Certification: If someone holds an active Nursing Assistant Certification in another state, they may qualify for certification in Washington state by endorsement. Click [here](#) for more detailed instructions and the application packet.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please send an email to RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Anbesse, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*